AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 5, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1. Structures for 1-Erythromycin A, 4-Erythromycin B, 2-Clarithromycin and 3-Azithromycin.

Figure 2. 5-Erythromycin A ethyl succinate.

Figure 3. Decomposition pathway for Erythromycin A in aqueous acidic medium.

Figure 4. Decomposition pathway for Clarithromycin and the azalide, Azithromycin, in acidic aqueous medium.

Figure 5. 1D ^{1}H NMR spectrum of Erythromycin B in aqueous buffer at pH 2.5, 30°C.

Figure 6. 1D ^{1}H NMR spectrum of 5-desosaminylerythronolide B in aqueous buffer at pH 2.5, 30°C.

Figure 7. A stack of 1D ^{1}H NMR spectra of Erythromycin B, degrading to its decomposition product, 5-deB at pH 2.5, 55°C.

Figure 8. Plot of percentage remained/accumulated in the degradation solution for Erythromycin B (eB), 5-deB and the total amount of both Erythromycin B and 5-deB (5-deB + eB) in Britton-Robinson buffer, pH 2.5, 55°C.

Figures 9A and 9B. Plot of percentage remained/accumulated in the degradation solution for Erythromycin B (eB), 5-deB and the total amount of both Erythromycin B

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and 5-deB (5-deB + eB) in Britton-Robinson buffer, pH 2.5, and 35°C (Fig. 9A) and 45°C (Fig. 9B).

Figure 10. A set of spectra demonstrating the deuteriation of Erythromycin B at 40°C.

Figure 11. ESI-MS spectrum of Erythromycin B following degradation in aqueous acidic condition at 37°C showing signal of its degradation product; 5-O-desosaminylerythronolide B (MH^+, m/z 561).

Figure 12. Plot of intensity of Erythromycin B (eB, MW 717), Erythromycin B-Deutron (eB+D), MW 718), eBec (MW 599) and 5-deB (MW 559) during the degradation of Erythromycin B to 5-deB at ph 2.5, 55°C.

Figure 13. DOSY spectrum of the products of the degradation of Erythromycin B in Britton-Robinson buffer at apparent pH 2.5 and 37°C for 24 h.

Figure 14. A ROESY spectrum of Erythromycin B at 30°C.

Figure 15. ROESY spectrum at 30°C from degradation mixtures of Erythromycin B, containing 5-deB and cladinose.

Figure 16. Electrospray-Mass spectrum (in positive mode) of Erythromycin B (MW 717), 5-deB (MW 559) and cladinose (MW 157) in protiated buffer, pH 2.5. The actual mass of every compound should be less 1 mass unit from the values shown in the spectrum.

Figure 17. A stack of 1D ^1H NMR spectra of 5-deB, pH 2.5, incubated at 55°C.

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Figure 18. A stack of 1D ^{1}H NMR spectra (the downfield 0.8-1.35ppm) of 5-deB, pH 2.5, incubated at 55°C, showing a doublet signal at δ1.15 was transformed to a singlet signal at δ1.14.

Figure 19. 1D ^{1}H NMR spectrum of Erythromycin B enol ether in aqueous buffer, pH 2, 35°C, 0min.

Figure 20. 1D ^{1}H NMR spectrum of Erythromycin B enol ether in aqueous buffer, pH 2, degraded at 37°C, 10min.

Figure 21. 1D ^{1}H NMR spectrum of Erythromycin B enol ether in aqueous buffer, pH 2, degraded at 37°C, 20min.

Figure 22. 1D ^{1}H NMR spectrum of Erythromycin B enol ether in aqueous buffer, pH 7, 37°C, 0min.

Figure 23. 1D ^{1}H NMR spectrum of Erythromycin B enol ether in aqueous buffer, pH 7, degraded at 37°C, 80min.

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